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THE

GOSPEL DISCOVERY,

OR A

POEM

ON THE LIFE AND DEATH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR,

JESUS CHRIST.

BY

JAMES BRAIDWOOD. Poet.

ISAIAH, XLII. 11, 12.

Let the wilderneſs and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit; let the inhabitants of the Rock ſing, let them ſhout from the top of the mountains, let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his Praiſe in the Iſlands.

EDINBURGH,
Printed, for the AUTHOR, Lower Campbell's Cloſe, Cowgate.

Here is that Man in whom is viſibly to be ſeen ſuch Glory, Majeſty, Lovelineſs, Sweetneſs, Compaſſion, Mercy, Juſtice, Wiſdom, and all treaſures of overflowing Fulneſs of Excellency, in ſuch an Incomprehenſible, Tranſcendent and Eminent, and Superabundant manner, as all the beholders are overwhelmed in a ſea of delightſome raviſhments for evermore,

THE GOSPEL DISCOVERY.

O Lord, my God, exert thy power,
Inſpire my ſoul to ſing,
The wonders of redeeming love,
To heaven's Almighty King.

2 He bows the heavens and comes down,
Into our lion's den,
To vent his everlaſting love
Unto the ſons of men.

3 The wonder of wonders now appears,
Both lowly meek and mild;
A Virgin Mary moſt conceive;
Our God appears a child.

4 The angels ſing, the ſhepherds run,
And ſees Chriſt with their eyes,
Which was ordain'd, by heaven's decree.
For ſin, the ſacrifice.

5 Our great Immanuel, God-man,
Did in a manger lye,
Who ſoon did break the ſerpent's head,
And all his powers defy.

6 Wiſe-men from the Eaſt proud Herod in-
form,
At Bethlehem city a Sav'our is born;
Ere Herod, his maſter, the devil deceive,
He ſends all the innocent males to their grave.

7 The eternal Father did order it ſo,
That Joſeph and Mary to Egypt did go
With glorious Jeſus, and there for to ſtay,
Till Herod, the tyrant, is taken away.

8 The Baptiſt appears, preparing the ground,
For heavenly ſeed that was to be ſown,
On dead, on hard, on barren, dry ground,
A hundred, ſome ſixty, ſome thirty are found.

9 Judah's bold lion Jeruſalem muſt ſee,
Then from Egypt thro' Nazareth to the
temple comes he;
There does begin his myſterious deſign,
To doctors and lawyers, he tells them his mind.

10 The light of the world to Jordan repairs,
To John to baptize him, for water was there.
The heavens are open'd! the work is begun,
For God muſt be glorified in his own Son.

11 God ſpeaks to ſinners, My Son, my belov'd,
In whom I'm well pleaſed; ſure this may prove,
The Spirit deſcends and lights on our Lord;
John ſeeth the glory and bears the record.

12 Jacob's bright Star to the wilderneſs goes,
Where Satan aſſaults him, but cannot oppoſe;
The devil is beaten and forced to yield;
Still Judah's bold lion triumphs in the field.

13 The Antient of days to Cana he came,
By the word of his power turns water to wine;
Aſtoniſh'd, amaz'd, his apoſtles behold
The glory of God, as the prophets fortold.

14 The First and the Last to the temple he goes,
Both buyers and sellers he there did oppose;
His zeal, as a cloak, he there did display,
And orders the doves to be taken away.

15 I Am that I Am, at Samaria's well,
Converts a poor woman, the word does me tell;
Her water pot leaves, and quickly did run,
Come, see a man tells me all I have done.

16 With five loaves and two fishes feeds five thousand men,
With women and children assembl'd with them,
Christ's power and his glory he there did display,
Both God like and man like, he sent them away

17 A Wonder, O see, on the Gad'rine coast,
A silly lost sheep by Satan is tost,
Behold our good Shepherd soon set him free,
The swine and the legion he drives in the sea.

18 Then up to Mount Tabor Christ does (ascend,
Elias and Moses must on him attend;
James, John, and Peter, are struck with great fear,
When shining in glory the Lord did appear.

19 Jehovah does speak, himself from above,
The apostles did hear, my Son, my belov'd;
In whom I'm well pleased, hear him God did say,
A bright cloud o'ershadows and passes away.

20 The pool of Bethsida our Lord passes by,
An impotent man there helpless did lye,
Here mercy and power divine did display,
Cures the impotent man and sent him away.

21 The Father's delight, the Word bears re-
The earth did own as her sovr'reign Lord, (cord;

The Firſt and the Laſt, there boldly did crave
A priſoner, Laz'rus out of the grave.

22 The plant of renown to Jericho came,
Sees a rich publican, Zaccheus by name,
On a ſycamor tree but quickly down came,
When the glory of God did ſalvation proclaim.

23 The Father's delight gives eyes to the blind,
Bartimews, the beggar, he leaves not behind,
Gave him eyes for to ſee and a heart for to ſing;
He joyfully follows his God and his king.

24 Up to Jeruſalem Chriſt does repair,
On an aſs he did ride, the word does declare,
The multitude ſinging, as Jeſus goes on,
Holanna, in the higheſt, a heavenly ſong.

25 The time is now come, the hour does draw nigh,
That Chriſt for poor ſinners intends for to die,
The angels do wonder, the church now may ſing,
Ye mourners in Zion ſing ſongs to your King.

26 Chriſt, our paſſover, ſent Peter and John
To the city, before him, to furniſh a room;
Where a ſupper of love he there did ordain,
In remembrance of Jeſus till he came again.

27 Chriſt the heat of the day and burden did bear,
In Gethſemane's garden, does plainly appear,
Where rolling himſelf three times on the ground
In an agony praying, the blood dropping down.

28 Now Judas, the traitor, appears with the band,
With lantrens and torchs and weapons in hand,
The firſt words of the Lamb them ſo did confound
They ſtumbl'd backward and fell to the ground.

29 Again did our Lord then unto them ſay,
I am he whom ye ſeek, let theſe go their way.
Tho' holy and harmleſs, the lot on him fell,
Like Jonah the type, Chriſt's word does me tell.

30 Our Lord unto Annias then did repair,
Who ſent him to Caiphas, high prieſt that year,
With their wicked council and Pilate with them
They groſsly abus'd the Saviour of men.

31 Buffeted, blindfolded, and ſmote with
their hands;
All crying to Pilate to fulfil their demands;
Denied by Peter, O great was his fall,
Set at nought by proud Herod, forſaken by all.

32 Ye Arians, Socinians, and Doctor M'Gill,
Chriſt's ſaints can ſay you do them great ill.
You are dead from the power of our glorious
Lord,
But thanks be to God, his word bears record,

33 May the good will of him that dwelt in the
buſh
With heavenly fire your hearts ſoon touch,
That a ram in the thicket like a Iſaac ye may
ſee,
The offended moſt die, the offenders ſet free.

34 A thorny crown on his head, a mock ſceptre
in his hand
By the Roman ruffian ſoldiers, at Pilate's com-
mand,
U juſtly condemned; O dark was the day,
Like a lamb to the ſlaughter they led him away.

35 The deſire of all nations his work carries
on,
With a croſs on his ſhoulder, his blood running
down;
Behold Chriſt a going from their judgment hall,
Who is bleſſed forever, and God over all.

36 The Father's delight, to mount Calvry repairs,
With ſcourging and bleeding his bones on him ſtare,
There both Jew and Gentile conjunctly agree,
That Chriſt muſt be crucified on mount Calvry,
37 Divine hidden mercy creation confounds,
The angels, from heaven, with wonder look'd down,
The clouds of wrath were ready to fall
And cruſh guilty ſinners, Chriſt ſuffers for all.
38 His bleſs'd hands and his feet are nail'd to the tree,
Between two malefactors expended was he,
But O happy thief, ſav'd from ſatan's paw,
Who was juſtly condemned for breaking the law.
39 Behold Chriſt, O Love him, all ſhining in blood
Between Heaven and earth in the midſt of the crowd;
See a ruffian ſoldier, void of all fear,
There the ſide of our Saviour does pierce with a ſpear,
40 Hell's infernal furies our Lord overthrew,
Broke down the partition 'twixt Gentile and Jew.
Chriſt never gave out till he boldly did cry,
On the croſs, it is finiſh'd, his head bows & dies.
41 Then Joſeph from Pilate did boldly crave
Chriſt's glorious body to lay in the grave,
Pilate does grant; then Joſeph takesdown
The body of Jeſus, and lays in his tomb.
42 The church was benighted with grief and fear,
But ſoon did comfort and joy appear

An angel from heaven, the word does me tell,
Rolls back the great, ſtone defies earth and hell.
43 The women to the ſepulcher then did repair,
Then Chriſt's reſurection did the angel declare,
The angel to the women then kindly did ſay,
Jeſus is riſen, come ſee where he lay?
44 Then Jeſus appears to Mary, near by,
As ſhe ſtood a weeping, the ſepulcher nigh,
Saying, go to my brethren, tell them from me
That they go to Gallilie, me they ſhall ſee.
45 The diſciples ſoon heard the joyful news,
In a room being aſſembled, fearing the Jews,
The doors being ſhut, affrighted for harm,
Then Jeſus appears in the midſt of them,
46 His love and his peace on them did beſtow,
Chriſt's hands & his ſide he did to them ſhow.
Then were they glad, the word bears record,
And grealty rejoiced, when they ſaw the Lord.
47 The Lord to his people did often appear
After he was riſen, by ſea and by ſhore;
By infallible proofs was ſeen forty days;
Our glorious Redeemer their life was always.
48 Now our Lord his own people to Bethany, led,
With lifted up hands there bleſt them indeed;
Then a change from natural to a ſpiritual eye,
Chriſt Jeſus, triumphing, aſcended on high.

FINIS.